

# The County Commissioners of Kent County

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March 30, 2021

The Honorable Gregory Slater  
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 548  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21706

## **RE: Kent County 2021 Transportation Priority Letter**

Dear Secretary Slater:

We would like to thank the staff of the Maryland Department of Transportation for its continued cooperation and support in meeting the transportation needs of the County. With the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study Tier 1 NEPA, the County would like to reaffirm its continued opposition to any proposal for a north Bay Bridge crossing with a terminus in Kent County. The County's position in this regard is based on its long-standing Comprehensive Plan strategies dating back to 1974 and its affiliated Land Use designations.

Last year, the Kent County Commissioners, referencing the 2020 Priority Letter from Cecil County, Maryland, included language addressing DelDOT toll diversion and the heavy truck traffic associated with the situation. This language is included again for continued attention.

In cooperation with the local municipalities in Kent County, Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners present the following priority listing of transportation projects for your consideration.

Construction, Engineering, and Project Planning Priorities:

### Chester River Bridge Crossing

- aka Chester River Boulevard (This project has been entered in the MOOT Chapter 30 Portal in previous years and has been re-submitted.)



### US 301 Toll Diversion Coordination Actions in coordination with Cecil County, Maryland

- Of immediate importance is coordination with DelDOT regarding toll-evading traffic, now that US 301 has been converted to a limited-access toll road. Toll evasion now threatens the distinctive character and sense of place in both Kent County, Maryland and Cecil County, Maryland. The current toll-evading traffic has shifted an undue burden of maintenance and operations costs from DelDOT's roads to Maryland's local roadways. Likewise, truck weight scale evasion could have similar impacts along the US 1/222/301 corridors. In conjunction with this priority, our project requests are as follows:
  - Continued coordination with DelDOT in the operations of US 301 in Delaware.
  - Stepped-up enforcement of truck weight limits along the MD 213 and US 1/222/301.

### Streetscape Priorities

- Betterton – Re-stamping of crosswalk at intersection of Main Street and 6th Avenue
- Butlertown and Worton – Maryland Routes 298 and 297 – Sidewalks, drainage improvements, and traffic calming
- Galena – Curbing at the four (4) corners of Galena; drainage improvements along west side of MD Route 213N and along the north side of MD Route 290E; repainting of all crosswalk lines; correct the stormwater drainage issue at 145 N. Main & Seminary Ave. Please review the curbing on North and South Main Street as there are chunks of concrete on the curbside that were damaged from the snowplows. There are some places on N. Main that we are having a greater stormwater flowing issues that before
- Millington Streetscape Priorities – complete current drainage and ADA sidewalk project; and resurface Cypress and Sassafras Streets – grind existing pavement, correct foundation support of roadway, repave.
- Rock Hall – Pedestrian crosswalk at Judefind Ave to Williams Ave across Rock Hall Ave (Route #20)

### Trail and Pedestrian Priorities

- Sidewalks and pedestrian walkways along Flatland Road
- Engineering and design for pedestrian and bicycling connections on Quaker Neck Road in order to facilitate safe crossings between the Chestertown waterfront and downtown areas, to include the Rail Trail
- Maryland Route 289 to Radcliffe Creek bike/pedestrian improvements for connections to the water trail
- Rock Hall Trail System and sidewalk expansion around the waterfront;
  - Rock Hall sidewalk \_ biking Bayside Ave.
  - Rock Hall sidewalk \_ biking Chesapeake Ave
- Addition of bike lanes during resurfacing projects

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Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Kent County. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Maryland Department of Transportation on the planning and implementation of these important local transportation improvements.

Very truly yours,  
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND



P. Thomas Mason, President



Ronald H. Fithian, Member



Robert N. Jacob, Jr., Member

cc: Danielle Hornberger, County Executive, Cecil County, Maryland  
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, Kent County, Maryland  
Mike Moulds, PE, Director of Public Works  
William A. Mackey, AICP, DPHZ Director